



EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of 10 federal agencies that participate in the SBIR Program established by the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982. The purpose of this Act was to strengthen the role of small businesses in federally funded R&D and help develop a stronger national base for technical innovation. **A small business is defined as a for profit organization with no more than 500 employees.** In addition, the small business must be independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, and have its principal place of business located in the United States. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible for SBIR awards, provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

EPA issues annual solicitations for Phase I and Phase II research proposals from science and technology-based firms. Under Phase I, the scientific merit and technical feasibility of the proposed concept is investigated. EPA awards firm-fixed-price Phase I contracts of up to \$70,000 and the period of performance for these contracts is typically 6 months. Through this phased approach to SBIR funding, EPA can determine whether the research idea, often on high-risk advanced concepts, is technically feasible, whether the firm can do high-quality research, and whether sufficient progress has been made to justify a larger Phase II effort. The Phase I report also serves as a basis for follow-on commitment discussions.

Phase II contracts are limited to small businesses that have successfully completed their Phase I contracts. The objective of Phase II is to further develop the concept proven feasible in Phase I. Competitive awards are based on the results of Phase I and the scientific and technical merit and commercialization potential of the Phase II proposal. Under Phase II, EPA can award contracts of up to \$295,000 and the period of performance is typically 2 years. The goal of Phase II is to complete the R&D required to commercialize the technology or product.

EPA's next Phase I Solicitation will open on March 29, 2001, and will close on May 24, 2001. The solicitation will be posted on the National Center for Environmental Research WEBSITE at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa/sbir>

Please note that the last Phase I solicitation, which closed on May 25, 2000, is still on the WEBSITE for informational purposes only. The solicitation includes a description of the program and descriptions of typical topic areas. The solicitation also is available by fax. If you need a fax copy of last year's solicitation or if you have any questions, please call the EPA SBIR Helpline at:



1-800-490-9194